



CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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*We joyfully
welcome
and nurture
all people
by providing
a vibrant
Christ-centered
community
of faith,
dedicated to
spiritual growth
through
worship, study
and service.*

What Is the Church's Mission?

By Phil Love, Chair of the Congregational Board

Who owns the church? That was one of the first questions posed by well-known author and church consultant Dan Hotchkiss at the Congregational Board retreat held Oct 2-3.

How would you answer that question? Dan suggests that because its mission has a justifiable claim on the resources and priorities of the church, there's a real sense in which the mission "owns" the church. If that's the case, each of us, in our own way, has a "fiduciary" responsibility to the mission of the church.

Of course, this begs the question "What, exactly, is the church's mission?" This, according to Hotchkiss, is worthy of the board's constant attention.

One of the ways to think about the subject of mission is to identify the most important open questions facing the congregation. What are the big questions we don't yet have answers to? Answering those big, open questions results in goals that guide the very long-term planning responsibility and work of a board.

Over the coming months, your board will be working to identify and to prioritize some of

these questions and to develop goals that are based on what we learn about them. Along the way, we'll all want to learn from one another in earnest conversation.



We are eager to continue the good work begun at the retreat, and to work within our community of faith for the benefit of our common mission and purpose.

Grace and peace to you and yours,
Phil



Sign Up for 2016 Christian Community Camp

Sign up beginning Sun., Oct. 18, for a glorious week at the YMCA of the Rockies near Estes Park, CO. The 2016 camp will be July 30-Aug. 6. For many years, families and individuals from our congregation have gathered for a week of hiking, horseback riding, fishing, crafting, relaxing and fun at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. The group of 60-90 folks from ages 1 to 91 stays in a lodge with lovely mountain views and enjoys the home cooked meals provided by volunteer chefs from our church. If you don't like to camp



but you love the mountains, this is the place for you.

For more information, stop by the parlor on Sun., Oct. 18, from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to pick up a brochure or ask questions. A registration form and a \$250 non-refundable deposit will hold your place. Cost is \$1,700 for a private room (\$1,600 if paid in full by Dec. 1); \$375 for the women's bunk room (\$325 if paid in full by Dec. 1). Food and activity fee of \$85 per person. For more information, contact Rev. Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org or 816-333-4917.

*Note the 2017 camp dates are June 3-10.

October Collection Connection: India Mission

In October we are collecting cash donations for teachers at the Rambo School in Mungeli, India to use for supplies and furnishings as their school expands, as well as for other needs of the hospital there. Please note "Mungeli" in the memo on your check and place it in the offering plate. We also are collecting new or gently used smart phones, chargers, and tablets for our mission teams to take to Mungeli, India, in January 2016. Please be sure you have wiped the data from your device before donating. The phones and tablets we collect will be reformatted so hospital employees can connect to the internet. Two teams from Country Club Christian Church will travel to India to serve at Christian Hospital Mungeli.

All Church Meeting October 11 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the Social Hall

The Congregational Board will share a brief presentation about its work over the last few months and Glen will give a report. There will be a recap of Grace at Work and a report on Country Club Christian Church and marriage equality in light of the recent Supreme Court decision. Time for questions and discussion will be included. Everyone welcome.

Sermon Series:

No Cliches Allowed

The October sermon series, "No Cliches Allowed," is based on the book of Job. Job's story is one of terrible suffering, fist-shaking anger and, ultimately, a very real experience of the presence of God. Job's refusal to allow cliches for answers to his difficult questions is a powerful example for us and how we too can face those awful moments when bad things happen. His story will help us wrestle with the question heard so often in times of tragedy and sorrow, "Why me?" If you know someone who has been hurt by life, invite them to join us for this series as we listen to this ancient story and its powerful lesson for today's world.

Coming in November:

Are We There Yet? On the Way with Jesus.

Dr. Glen Miles preaching. Nov. 8 and 15.



Thy Kingdom Come

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Two young, good looking men knocked on the door of a certain householder and asked, “Would you like to go to heaven?” The householder thought for a minute, then asked, “Will you two be there?” “Oh most definitely,” came the hearty reply. “Then I don’t want to go.”

Many Christians think that getting saved is about learning how to get to heaven. When God saves in the Bible, however, it rarely has to do with heaven. Salvation almost always points toward some new way of living in the world today.

Every time we pray the Lord’s Prayer we are asking for this salvation to happen. Every week, when we repeat the Lord’s Prayer, every time we say it, we are asking for salvation to come to us.

*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven...*

Think about that for a moment; Jesus is asked by his disciples to teach them how to pray and he doesn’t say a single word about how to get to heaven. He doesn’t tell them what they must do to get saved. He tells them to pray for God’s ways to become our ways, here on earth, today, not tomorrow, not next year or in some future time, but here, today.

When God saves it almost always has to do with you and your life in the here and now. Perhaps the clearest way to experience that saving act is to simply trust God, to seek the way and will of God in all that you do.

When Jesus announces that someone is being saved, it is the declaration of a physical and spiritual transformation of that person in this moment, in this world, in the here and now. Jesus is standing in line with his Hebrew brothers and sisters who taught that Shalom, that is peace and well being and justice for all, is what salvation is about. He is not presenting them something new as much as reminding them of what God has been saying all along.

Take a moment right now and recite the Lord’s Prayer. Then ask yourself, what is God’s will for my life, for this day, for this moment? The answer may not be easy but I promise it will set the tone for your day and maybe even the rest of your life!

Grace and peace to you,

Upcoming Guest Lunch

We invite all guests and friends of the congregation to attend an upcoming lunch and informational gathering to learn more about the church, meet the ministers and ask questions about the denomination and congregation. Sun., Nov. 15, 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the Solarium (Rm. 309). For more information, please contact Dr. Meredith Holladay at meredithh@cccckc.org.

Worship with us!

**Service Times: 9:00, 10:00
and 11:00 a.m.**

Sermon Series: No Cliches Allowed

Oct. 11

Part 2: Broken

Matthew 5: 43-45

Oct. 18

Part 3: Refusing to Let God

Off the Hook

Psalm 88: 8-18

Oct. 24

Part 4: Entering Into the Mystery

Psalm 145: 1-9

Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

Blood Drive on October 25

The Community Blood Center will conduct a blood drive on Sun., Oct. 25, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/cccblood-drive> to schedule an appointment online. Community Blood Center is the primary supplier of blood and blood components to 70 plus hospitals and medical centers in the Kansas City region.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Disciples: Reclaiming Our Identity, Reforming Our Practice.

Explore the history and future of our denomination as rooted in the Bible and the belief that there can be unity in diversity when we give our all in service to following Jesus Christ. Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets the first and third Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m., Room 201. Everyone welcome. Text \$20. For information, contact Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org.

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Save the date for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration will be Thur., Nov. 19. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall for a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. Watch for more information about tickets.

Isaiah: Living Faith Bible Study

Join us for study and lively discussion with the book of Isaiah on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. We will explore Isaiah's spiritual, historical, and literary content and how it echoes down through the centuries to our hearts today. Everyone is welcome. Textbook: \$10. For information, contact Rev. Joe Walker, joew@cccckc.org.

Helping Prepare a Home to Welcome a Refugee Family

We have committed to try to provide teams of three to five people to help prepare each home in the Della Lamb Refugee Resettlement program, a part of our Northeast PartNership. On Tues., Aug. 25, a team of four volunteers worked to prepare a three-bedroom home for a family of five (a mother and four adults sons) who arrived at the end of August. The team vacuumed, made beds, cleaned the kitchen and other work as needed. If you are interested in helping with this project in the future, please contact Kathy Buckley, the point person for our congregation, at majorbuckley@aol.com. No heavy lifting or furniture moving required!

Prison Book Ministry

We are collecting books for our Lansing Correctional Facility Library Book Ministry. Volunteers from our church go to the prison to help the librarian catalog and stock donated books. Acceptable genres include mysteries, suspense, current best sellers, history, Westerns, science fiction, Spanish language books, and Spanish-English dictionaries. We cannot accept romance novels, *Reader's Digest*, Bibles (we have plenty), or product manuals. Paperback books are preferred though hardback volumes are accepted. New this year, we are also accepting manual and electric typewriters. Donations may be placed under the table in our east entrance. For more information or to learn about volunteering in this ministry call our church office or email care@cccckc.org.



New Interspersed with the Old

By Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, Co-interim Director of Music



My first official, post-employment meeting with David Diebold is still very distinct in my memory. We sat across from each other at the peninsula desk in his office. David had prepared five file folders for me – each carefully labeled with its respective topic in his very clear handwriting. He had a list of items to discuss. As we went through each, David ticked off the corresponding bullet point on the page of his planner using his ever-present mechanical pencil.

One of the items was regarding the church newsletter. Turns out that staff members alternate writing a regular column. At that point, he had checked off enough items that I suggested my newsletter contribution be put on ice until I got my bearings.

So . . . here we are!

While change is ever-present, it's still an adjustment to be acknowledged. I am grateful for the time spent here with David and his quiet, solid witness and presence.

I am also grateful for this congregation and the staff and clergy leadership. Having substituted at many churches in the Lawrence, Topeka, and Kansas City areas, I find you to be very distinctive. It's my experience that the congregation is a warm, welcoming, hospitable, and generous group who actively participates in worship and service. The staff are dedicated and each one an expert in their own right. The clergy are passionately devoted to the spiritual wellbeing of the congregation. My colleague, Paul Tucker, is one of the most gifted musicians I know and it's wonderful to have his wife, Vicki, singing in the Chancel Choir and helping to lead at the 9:00 a.m. service.

As we move through the interim period in the music program, you'll see and hear some things that will be different than in the past. But through it all, the focus of the musical choices is to highlight the Word, as shared by the clergy. You've already heard some variety in style, tempo, genre, and delivery. But those new deliveries are interspersed with old favorites and other more familiar repertoire.

We all will come and go at some point . . . but, in the end, I'm reminded of closing lines from a German chorale:

*And from morn to set of sun,
Through the Church the song goes on.*

Amen . . . So be it.

Sincerely,
Dina

Virginia Reed Food Drive

The next food drive is Sun., Oct. 18. We have three ways to share the bounty with the hungry in our community:

1. Bring canned goods to our donation points in the parlor and the chapel, and at the doors any time. Please do not bring anything in a glass container. Cans, boxes and plastic containers all work well and are not accidentally broken as easily as glass.
2. Make a financial contribution to the Virginia Reed Food Drive on the Harvesters Community Food Network website (christianchurch.harvestersvfd.org). We will have a computer in the parlor on Oct. 18 for you to make your online contribution.
3. Make a financial contribution to the church and mark your check or giving envelope "food drive." You may place these gifts in the offering plate during worship.

Bring your Cars to Trunk or Treat!

Join Country Club Christian Church as we welcome children to trick-or-treat on our campus on Sat., Oct. 24, 4:00-6:00 p.m. for Trunk or Treat. You're never too young or too old to get in the spirit of Halloween by decorating your vehicle with a festive theme. We would love to fill our parking lot with fun and exciting vehicles decorated for Halloween.

There will be awards for the best decorated vehicles. Sign up in the parlor on Sunday or at <http://tinyurl.com/ccctrunk> so we know how many vehicles we will have. Vehicles will be parked in designated parking spots in the chapel lot on Sat., Oct. 24. Park your vehicle to expose your trunk so that children can trick-or-treat. Costumes, themes, and fun decorations are encouraged! Please provide candy for 100 children. If you need help providing candy, contact Lindsay Howes (lindsayh@cccckc.org) or Monica Lewis (monical@cccckc.org).



Susan and Alan Garner participated in our 2014 Trunk or Treat.

Student Ministries News

High School Bowling

Sun., Oct. 11 - 1:00-4:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Lunch provided.

Middle School Laser Tag

Sun., Oct. 25 - 12:00-3:00 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person. Lunch and FUN will be provided.

Youth Elder/Deacon Training

Sun., Oct. 25

Middle School – 10:00 a.m. Youth Center

High School – 12:15 p.m. Youth Center

High School Nicaragua Trip

We are planning a mission trip to Nicaragua for high school in 2016. If you are interested in this trip, contact Monica Lewis at monical@cccckc.org.

Family Worship Night: Family Mission

Sun., Nov. 1, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

Sunday School Schedule

9:55-10:55 a.m.: Middle School Sunday School, Youth Center

12:00-12:45 p.m.: High School Sunday School, Youth Center

Fall Fun with Club Kids

Country Club Christian Church 3rd-5th graders traveled to Faulkner's Ranch on Oct. 4 for fellowship and fun. They roasted hot dogs, made s'mores and went on a hayride.



Above, left to right: Gray Sullivan, Blake Petrie, Carter Rose, Liam Petrie, Jake Bartlett.



Left, Tristan Roske and Liam Petrie playing pumpkin checkers.



Right, Cynthia and Kent Petrie on the hayride.



Divine Moments

by Rev. Carla Aday, Executive Minister



I love planning. But I also love the unplanned moment.

Just last week I was sitting at my desk typing away when out of the corner of my eye I saw something reddish-brown moving down the center of the green grass in the Ward Parkway median. It was about 3:00 p.m and a fully grown red fox was sauntering through the neighborhood. I couldn't have planned that delightful moment if I had tried.

In fact, sometimes I'm so busy planning that I don't even have time to notice the sacred intrusion of the unplanned moment. On a recent vacation, I had planned so much activity – historic sites, museums, dinner reservations – that my husband said there was no room left for spontaneity or fun. Dave was still walking slowly in a full leg brace as he recovered from surgery. So one morning I suggested that Dave just wait while I went to load our luggage in the car. Looking for a convenient meeting point, I said, "Why don't you just meet me inside that church over there in about 10 minutes." As I casually strolled into the church, I gasped and jerked to attention. The sound I heard took my breath away. A group of four men from the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow were singing four-part harmony in the apse of the church's transept and it was reverberating off the walls of that old church like a heavenly chorus. I found my husband, seated in the dark wood pew in the dimly lit church weeping. And the music enveloped us like a wave of prayer. It was an experience that no tour book could have led us to but it was a moment of sacred bliss.

Sometimes when I officiate at a wedding here at Country Club Christian Church I assume that nothing can happen that will surprise me. But last Saturday, as the bride began to walk down the aisle and all eyes turned upon her for the grand entry bolstered by the organ's bold swell, I noticed the mother of the groom avert her gaze to fall on the face of her son. She was tenderly watching the expression on his face so that she could take in his joy. I could see in her face a longing for his happiness, a deep affection for her son, a love that spoke volumes across the 10 feet between them using no words, only eye contact. And I was reminded again that no matter what we plan, the divine Spirit of Life has a way of showing up in our lives with holy wonder.

Carla

Children and Families

Trunk or Treat Is Oct. 24

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Children birth-5th grade are invited to wear their Halloween costumes and join their friends gathering treats from decorated vehicles in the Combs Chapel parking lot. There will be a chili lunch, caramel apple station, pumpkin decorating, games, and more.

Family Worship Night: Family Mission

Sun., Nov. 1, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Singing, praying, worshipping, doing mission – all with your entire family. Dinner provided!

MOPs Group

Mothers of Preschoolers (birth-K) will meet the second Wednesday of each month from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Social Hall. The next meeting is Oct. 14. We are also looking for mothers of older children to serve as Mentor Moms. If you are interested in participating, have questions about MOPs, or are interested in serving as a Mentor Mom, contact our MOPS leader at mops@cccckc.org. For more information on MOPs, check out www.mops.org.

Introducing Deep Blue

Deep Blue is inspired by the verse, "In the depths of who I am, I rejoice in God my Savior". (Luke 1:47 CEB). The children will discover what it means to be a disciple of Christ today through science experiments, art and crafts, animated videos and active games; making the Bible stories, characters and verses part of their lives.

Parents, please check out the site, www.deepbluekids.com for resources and to download the new app!

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Our Church Family Sympathy

Our prayers and condolences are with the families and friends of:

Byron S. McDaniel

Save the Date! 2016 Dinner and Auction

Mark your calendar for the 7th Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction, Fri., Mar. 4, 2016 at Boulevard Brewery.

Auction – It's really not too soon! The committee will be looking for Live Auction items, Super Silent items and items by category, such as sports, electronics, jewelry, restaurants, gift packages, for the event. Creative ideas for donated items by individuals, groups working together or by Sunday School class are welcome!

PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. R. Glen Miles Senior Minister	Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans Co-interim Director of Music
Rev. Carla Aday Executive Minister	Ms. Lindsay Howes Director of Children's Ministries
Dr. Meredith Holladay Minister of Spiritual Formation	Ms. Sally Huggins Assistant Director of Communciations
Rev. Monica Lewis Minister to Children, Students and Families	Ms. Lisa McCleish Director of Early Childhood Programs
Rev. Joe Walker Minister of Congregational Care	Mr. Michael Patch Director of Children's and Youth Choirs
Mr. Jason Ashley Director of Building and Grounds	Ms. Lara Schopp Director of Communications
Ms. Rachel Clement Director of Finance	Dr. Paul Tucker Co-interim Director of Music
Mr. Paul Cutelli Director of Technology and Administrative Services	

The Country Club Christian: Copy must reach this office by Monday ten days prior to publication. Editor: Lara Schopp, laras@cccckc.org

816-333-4917 fax: 816-333-7538
email: office@cccckc.org website: www.cccckc.org